

REMARKS

In the office action mailed December 23, 2003, claims 2, 4 and 17 were rejected; claims 9-16 and 19-34 were allowed; and claims 3, 5-7 and 18 were deemed allowable, if amended to include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

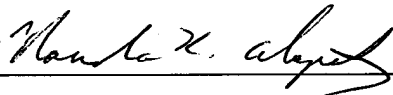
With the present amendment, claim 2 has been canceled; claims 3, 5-7 and 18 have been written in independent form to include the limitations of now-canceled claim 2; and claims 4 and 17 have been amended to depend on claim 3.

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 3-7 and 9-34 are believed to be in allowable form and define over the prior art of record. An early notice of allowance is requested so that the application may proceed to issue.

A separate Fee transmittal sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: February 20, 2004



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